

Notes from August 21, 2008 USAC Meeting

Topics discussed at the meeting included:

- DUSPA -Denver Union Station Project Authority
- Design Update
- Breakout Group Updates -Finance and Urban Design BOGs
- EIS - Environmental Impact Statement

DUSPA - Diane Barrett explained that the City created this non-profit organization to act on behalf of the government for taxing and debt issuing purposes. The voting members appointed by the Mayor are independent of the City. Other voting members are appointed by RTD, CDOT, and Metropolitan District.

Design Update - Kristopher Tacaks of SOM recapped the design considerations that SOM and Hargraves presented at the Land Use/Urban Design BOG the previous week. He talked about the train shed including its open-to-the-sky middle section and the building materials (steel and PTFC roofing material which is similar to the DIA cover). He defined the public realm as the Union Station Plaza (formerly called Wynkoop Plaza), the Kinetic Plaza which is the 2nd level access to the train shed, and the Transit Park which is a green open area along 17th Street to the Light Rail Station. The 17th Street design is asymmetrical with traffic and parking on the south side of the street and the Transit Park bordering the north side of the street. Tacaks also mentioned that the design team was considering different uses for the Union Station Plaza - more active programming on the 16th Street side and more passive uses on the 18th Street side. Another comment was that 16th Street would be one-way from Wynkoop to Wewatta, and then two-way from there to Chestnut St.

Eric Anderson announced that the Master Plan Supplement was now available on the Union Station website.

Breakout Groups:

Finance BOG - Jerry Glick stated that the public benefit issues related to Affordable Housing, Sustainability and Micro Businesses were close to final agreement, with Construction Jobs and Permanent Jobs still being discussed.

Land Use/Urban Design BOG - Ellen Ittelson stated that the General Development Plan and the Standards and Guidelines will be presented to the Landmark Commission on September 2nd and to the Planning Board on September 3rd.

EIS - Jason Longsdorf stated that there would be a public hearing on the Federal EIS on September 10th.